

Quartz Worktop & Flooring Installation & Maintenance Manual



HOWDENS JOINERY CO. | MAKING SPACE MORE VALUABLE

July 2017

Contents page

1.	Introduction	Page 4
2.	Tools Required	Page 5
3.	Important Hints & Tips	Page 6
4.	Planning Recommendations	Page 7
5.	Using the Support Bars	Page 8
6.	Cutting	Page 9
7.	Sanding & Polishing	Page 10
8.	Fitting & Joining	Page 11
9.	Hob & Inset Sink Installation	Page 12
10.	Undermount Sink	Page 13
11.	Undermount Sink - Cutting/Finishing	Page 14
12.	Drainer Grooves	Page 15
13.	Creating Curves	Page 16
14.	Upstand Installation	Page 17
15.	Quartz Flooring Installation	Page 18
16.	Care & Maintenance	Page 21
17.	Quartz FAQs	Page 22

1. Introduction

This document gives specific information regarding the installation of Howdens Joinery Quartz worktops & flooring tiles.

Whilst you may have installed Quartz products in the past, please ensure you are familiar with the different elements required when handling, cutting and installing Howdens Quartz worktops and flooring, particularly relating to their weight and extraction of dust.

Specialist tools and accessories are required to ensure the Quartz worktops and flooring are cut and finished correctly. Never lay tools onto the worktop or flooring during installation.

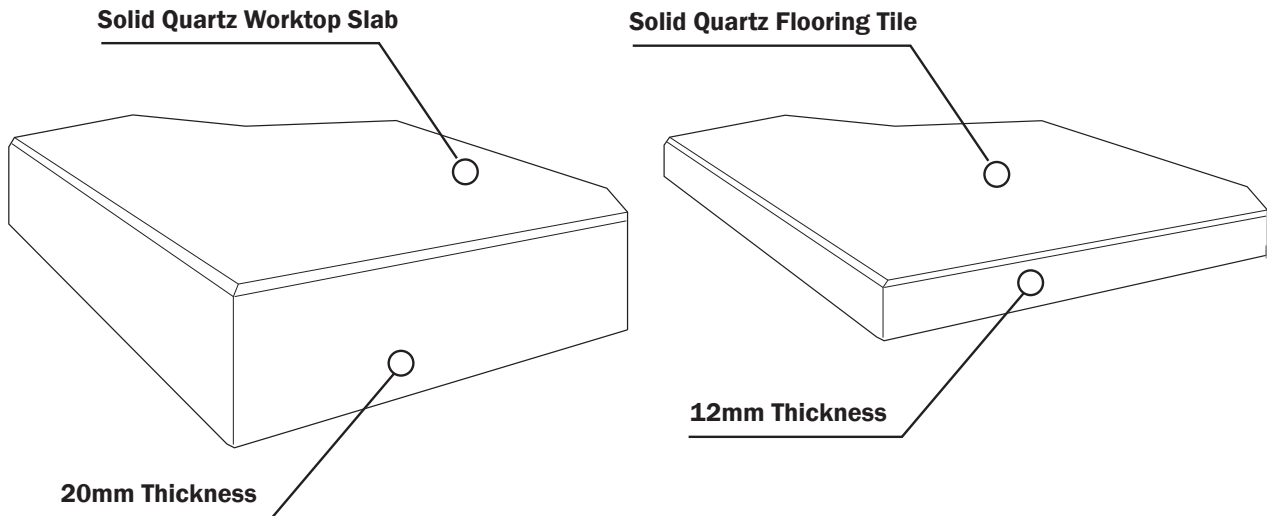
In order to maintain the condition of the Quartz products please take time to read this manual before you begin installation.

VERY IMPORTANT

To achieve a satisfactory finish, the instructions must be adhered to. Working with Quartz is very different to working with other worktop materials.

Worktop & Flooring Material

Note: Worktops are supplied as finished on 3 sides, solid Quartz slabs are provided in modular sizes as detailed below.



Worktop Range

The Quartz worktop range includes:

2.8m Worktop	(2800 x 620 x 20mm)
1.4m Worktop	(1400 x 620 x 20mm)
1.4m Upstand	(1400 x 100 x 20mm)
Window Board	(1400 x 320 x 20mm)

Flooring Range

The Quartz flooring range includes:

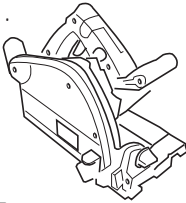
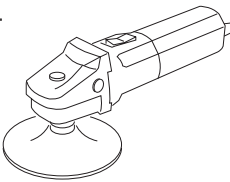
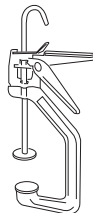
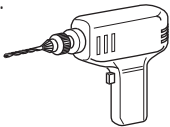
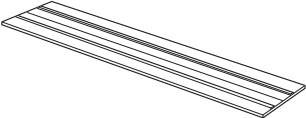



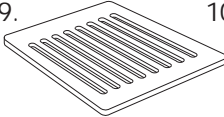
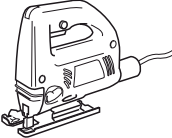
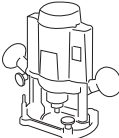


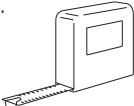
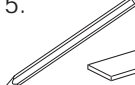
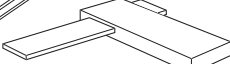

Flooring Tile	(600 x 400 x 12mm)
---------------	--------------------

Additional materials for worktops

Metal worktop support bars (used to support the worktop over wide spans exceeding 400mm). See 'using the support bars' on page 8.





















2. Tools Required

To install Quartz worktops the following tools will be required to achieve a high quality finish.

1. 	2. 	3. 	4. 	1. Plunge Saw
5. 	6. 	7. 	8. 	2. Sander/Polisher (with extraction)
9. 	10. 	11. 	12. 	3. Clamps
13. 	14. 	15. 	16. 	4. Drill
			17. 	5. Rail/Guide
				6. Dust Mask (FFP3)
				7. Protective Eye Wear
				8. Hearing Protection
				9. Drainer Groove Jig
				10. Jigsaw
				11. Router
				12. Curved Worktop Jig
				13. Packing Shims
				14. Tape Measure
				15. Pencil
				16. Combination Square
				17. Masking Tape

Accessories

The following installation accessories can be purchased from Howdens Joinery. These will be required for your installation and are compatible with the tools referenced above.

1. 	2. 	3. 	4. 	5. 	Worktop & Flooring
6. 	7. 	8. 	9. 	6. Drainer Groove Router Bit	
10. 	11. 	12. 	13. 	7. Silicone Carbide Pads	
15. 	16. 	17. 	18. 	8. Electroface Pads	
20. 	21. 	22. 		9. Drainer Groove Sanding Block	
				10. Flexible Quick Release Backing Pad	
				11. Stitched Roll Mop	
				12. Abrasive Block (White/Black)	
				13. Thermal Protection Tape	
				14. Drill Spindle Adapter	
				15. Pigtail Fitting (for stitched roll mop)	
				16. Silicone Frame Sealant - Black (GAR0112) - White (GAR0115) - Clear (GAR0117)	
				Flooring Only	
				17. Flooring Adhesive	
				18. Grout (Black/White)	
				19. Jigsaw Blade	
				20. Tile Spacers	
				21. Mixer Paddle	
				22. Trowel	

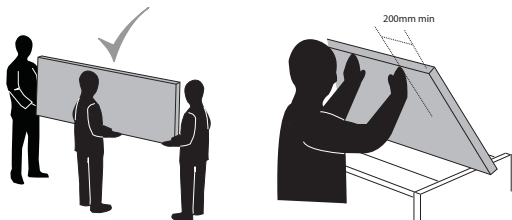
3. Important Hints & Tips

The following information **MUST** be followed in order for a safe and successful installation.

VERY IMPORTANT

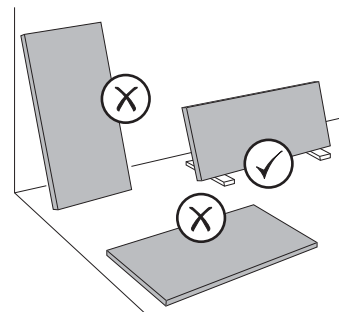
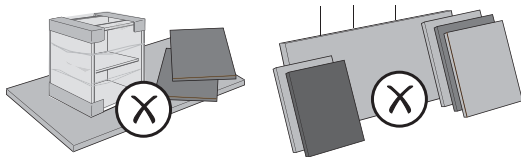
- A dust mask (FFP3 filter compliant to EN149:2001) must be worn during the cutting and sanding/polishing process
- Eye protection must be worn compliant to EN166B
- Always try to perform cuts and sanding that produce dust in an area with good general ventilation, appropriate dust extraction must be in place wherever cutting, drilling or polishing activities take place
- Use equipment that has built in dust extraction to keep any dust out of the air
- Safety footwear should be worn with reinforced toe caps
- Worktops are very heavy and care must be taken when handling - use appropriate levels of manpower

- Worktops must always be lifted on their side, never laying flat - gloves should be worn for additional grip

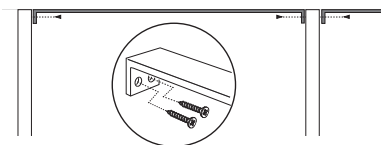


Support the top when laying down/fitting

- Worktops must be stored on their side, with protection underneath
- Never stack other components on or against the worktops
- Use support bearers under the worktop to assist when moving



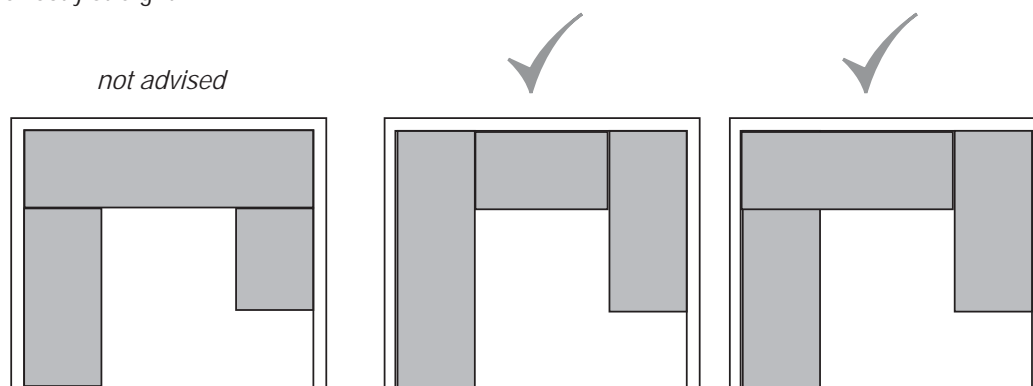
- Treat product with care when removing from the packaging
- The maximum unsupported overhang span of the worktop must never exceed 200mm
- The maximum unsupported span of the worktop must never exceed 400mm
- Cut-outs for hobs and sinks should never be closer than 100mm from the end edges of the worktop
- Never have a worktop joint over an unsupported span, as this will weaken the strength of the worktop
- When using polishing pads, never exceed 2000rpm, as doing so will reduce the life of the polishing pads
- Only use the silicone sealer specified (GAR0112/15/17) to seal/secure the worktop. Support bearers must be used under the worktop when drilling/cutting
- Always cut the worktops from the front to the back to avoid damaging the front edge
- An upstand should always be used in any installation when the back of the worktop is against the wall
- Cabinet feet must be fitted correctly to the cabinet to ensure suitable support for the weight of the worktop
- **Support rails/battens must be used to span unsupported areas at the rear of the worktop. Use a metal worktop support bar across unsupported areas such as integrated and free-standing appliances. This should be positioned at the front and the back as required between the cabinets/decor ends**
- Due to thermal expansion, Quartz can expand up to 1mm per metre. A gap of at least 3mm must be left at each end of the worktop and fitted with decorator's caulk. When Quartz joins other materials such as glass, wood etc, the recommended silicone sealant is required
- Thermal protection pads must be used above appliances that transfer heat such as dishwashers and washing machines



4. Planning Recommendations

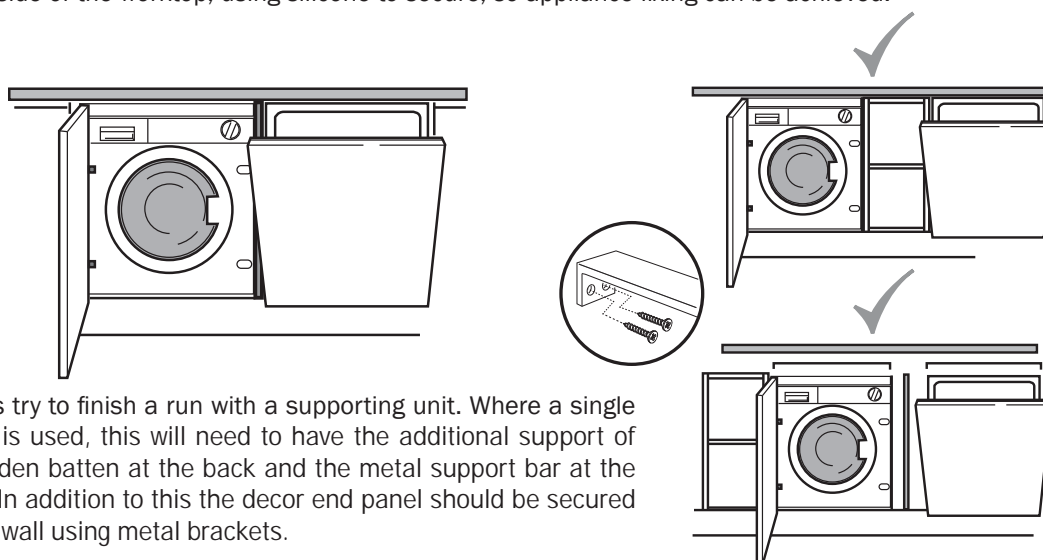
The below diagrams show some of the planning recommendations. Whilst the Quartz worktops can be used in all applications, certain planning considerations are required to ensure the worktops are installed correctly.

Note: As best practice, never fit a worktop between two wall sections to avoid fitting issues with the walls not being perfectly straight.

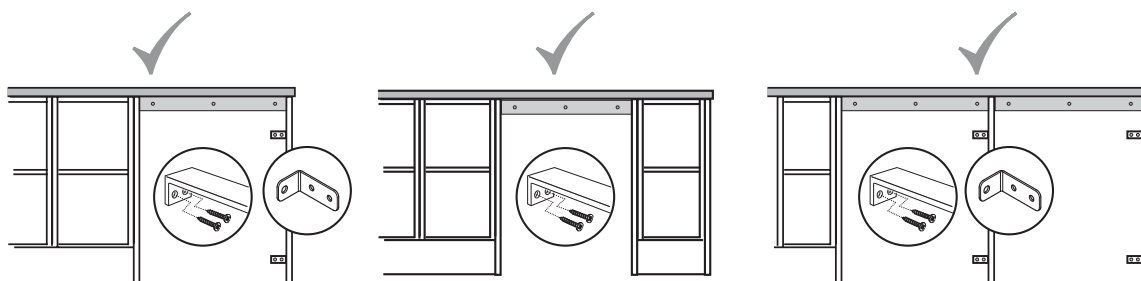


When two appliances are to be positioned next to each other, decor end panels and support rails should be used for additional support. Where possible a unit should be positioned between the appliances for increased support of the worktop.

Note: Where appliances require securing to the underside of the worktop, a support batten should be fitted to the underside of the worktop, using silicone to secure, so appliance fixing can be achieved.



Always try to finish a run with a supporting unit. Where a single panel is used, this will need to have the additional support of a wooden batten at the back and the metal support bar at the front. In addition to this the decor end panel should be secured to the wall using metal brackets.



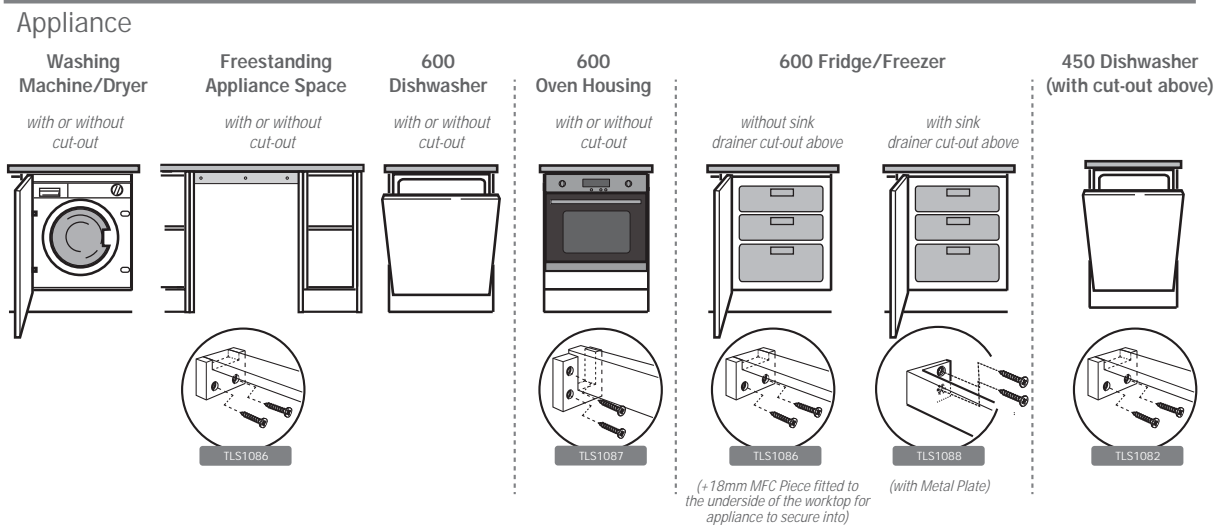
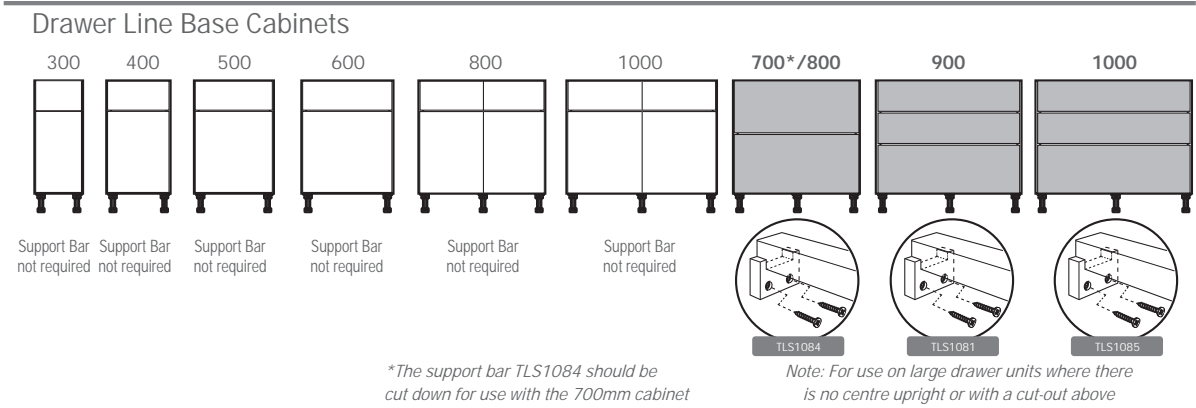
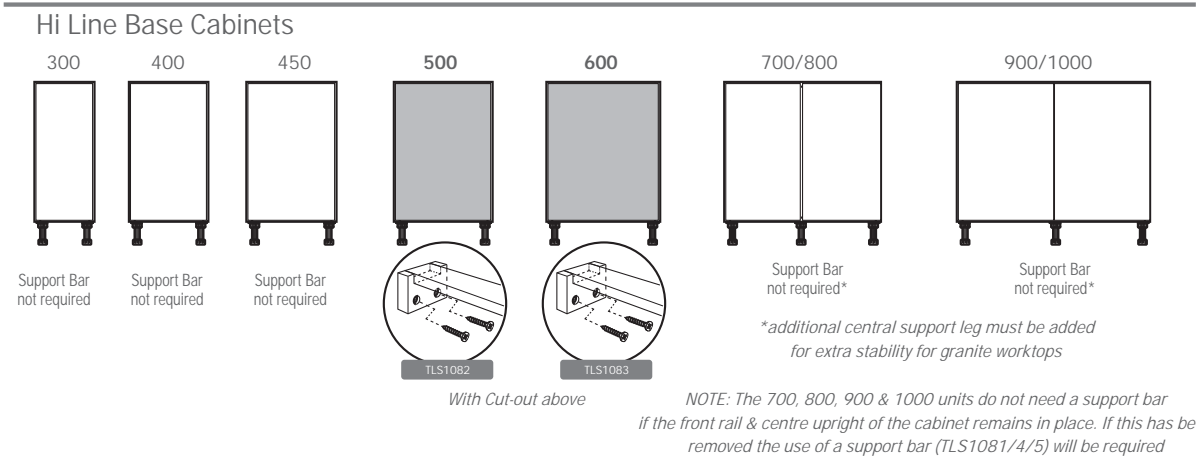
The gap between the worktop and the hob should be as large as possible. Caution around hob fixing clips pressing against worktop.

We recommend a gap of 5mm between the top of the oven and the bottom of the Quartz.

5. Using the Support Bars

Metal support bars should be used over unsupported spans of the Quartz worktop. Follow the diagrams below for where support bars are required.

Note: Cut-outs for a sink or hob in the Quartz worktop must be supported by the cabinet front rail and/or support bar.



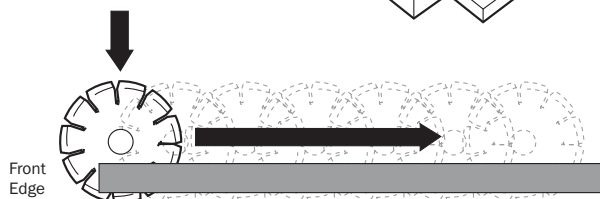
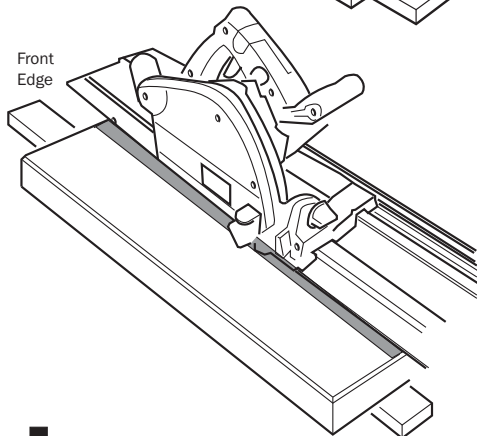
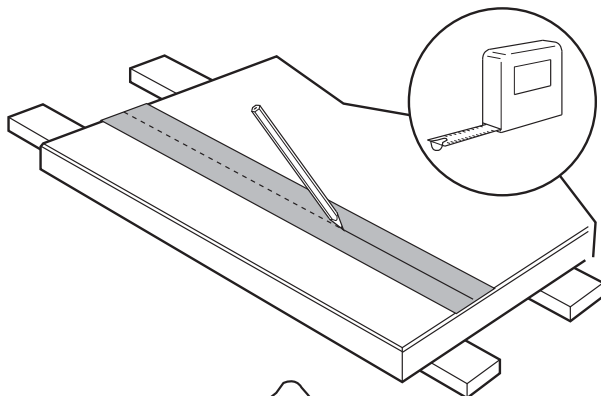
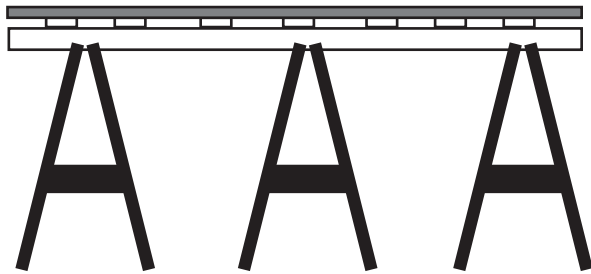
6. Cutting

The following tools and equipment are required to complete this operation.

- Plunge Saw
- Quartz Plunge Saw Blade
- Clamps
- Rail/Guide
- Masking Tape
- Tape Measure & Pencil



Important: Make sure care is taken with the finished surface of the worktop. Never lay tools onto the worktop during installation.



Make sure measurements are checked before cutting takes place. Where corners are not a perfect 90° angle, the worktop cut edge may require cutting at a slight angle.

Place the worktop on the bench ensuring it is supported with wooden battens. Make sure there is plenty of room around the product to work.

Note: If using 'A' frames to support the worktop while cutting, ensure the frames are sturdy enough to support the weight.

Note: Masking tape should be applied to the worktop at the point where it is going to be cut.

Using a tape measure and pencil, mark the worktop at the required length.

Use a rail/guide clamped to the top as a square edge for the saw to run against.

Use a plunge saw with Quartz plunge saw blade to make the cut in the worktop. There are two recommended sawing processes:

1. For finished edges - 3 Passes
(3mm cut - plunge cut* - finishing pass)
2. Unfinished edges (against a wall) - 1 Pass
(Plunge cut*)

**plunging the blade completely through the worktop then steadily along the cut line.*

Make sure the blade is followed completely through the cut to avoid breaking and chipping.

Important:

- Always cut the worktop from front to back as this will avoid damage to the front edge
- To prevent splintering it is recommended not to push too hard when cutting. This will also preserve the lifespan of the blade
- Always use suitable dust extraction
- Always use a dust mask (FFP3) and safety eye wear whilst cutting
- Always use appropriate ear protection

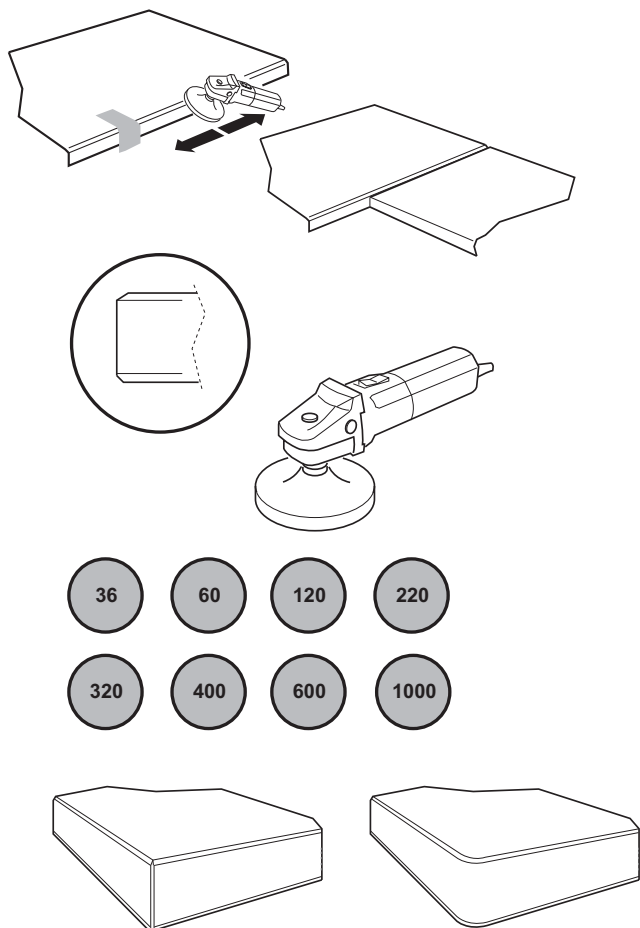
7. Sanding & Polishing

The following tools and equipment are required to complete this operation.

- Sander/Polisher
- Flexible Quick Release Backing Pad
- Silicone Carbide Pads
 - 36 grit
 - 60 grit
 - 120 grit
 - 220 grit
 - 320 grit
 - 400 grit
 - 600 grit
 - 1000 grit
- Stitched Roll Mop and Abrasive Block (White/Black)



Important: Make sure care is taken with the finished surface of the worktop. Never lay tools or discs on the worktop during sanding and polishing.



Apply the flexible quick release backing pad to the sander.

Using a sander and the silicone carbide pads, sand the cut edge making a chamfer along the top and bottom edges. The chamfer should replicate the chamfer along the front edge. If applying a radius to the corner carefully implement this with the silicone carbide pads.

Work through the sequence of silicone carbide pads in stages as shown, applying even pressure. The last sanding application will be the 1000 grit pad.

Finally, use the stitched roll mop to finish off the worktop edging. Add abrasive block to the stitched roll mop and polish the edge.

Note: Use abrasive block on the edge of the stitched roll mop, not on the face.

Important:

- Always use suitable dust extraction
- Always use a dust mask (FFP3) and safety eye wear whilst sanding/polishing
- 2/3 passes along the edge per pad is sufficient. The first pass is to remove cutting marks
- When applying bevel, start with the 120 grit to prevent removal of too much material
- Do not apply excessive force when sanding/polishing the worktop
- Clean away any dust particles after each sanding application has taken place
- When using silicone carbide polishing pads, never exceed 2000rpm, as doing so will reduce the life of the pads
- Always use appropriate ear protection

8. Fitting & Joining

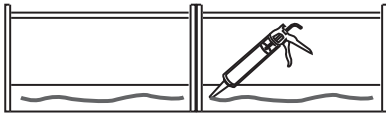
The following tools and equipment are required to complete this operation.

- Sander/Polisher
- Silicone (GAR0112/15/17)
- Silicone Carbide Pads
- Masking Tape
- Packing Shims

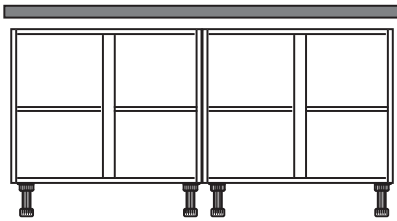


Important: Dry fit the worktops before securing in position.

Silicone along front edge only



Position worktops



Note: Worktops should never be walked/stood on during installation.

With the worktops cut to length and polished, they can be joined together to an adjoining side or front edge (in a corner application) using the silicone.

Note: Ensure worktops are level before final fixing. Packing shims can be used for this.

Apply silicone to the front rails of the cabinets, then carefully position the worktops onto the cabinets. The worktops should be placed in their final positions.

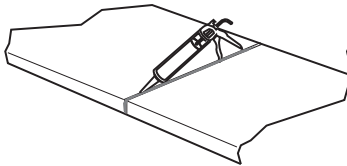
Note: When joining the worktop to a finished edge, use a 120 grit silicone carbide pad to run along the chamfer where it meets the cut edge.

Ensure the worktops are firmly pushed together. The silicone should be sitting on the top of the v groove.

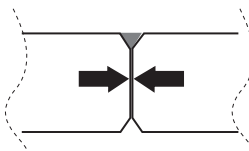
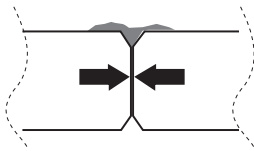
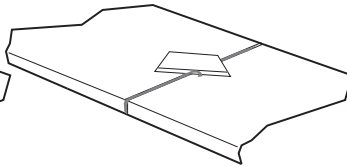
Scrape away excess silicone from the joint.

Important: Under no circumstances should the finished face of the worktop be sanded. Scratches cannot be polished out.

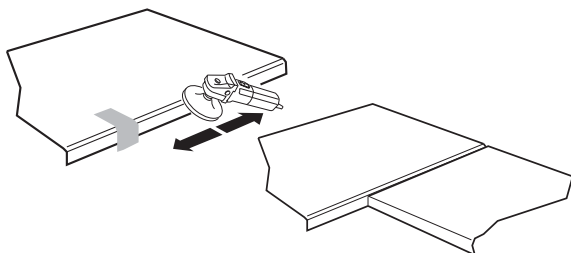
Apply silicone



Remove excess



Sand chamfer so adhesive bonds correctly



9. Hob & Inset Sink Installation

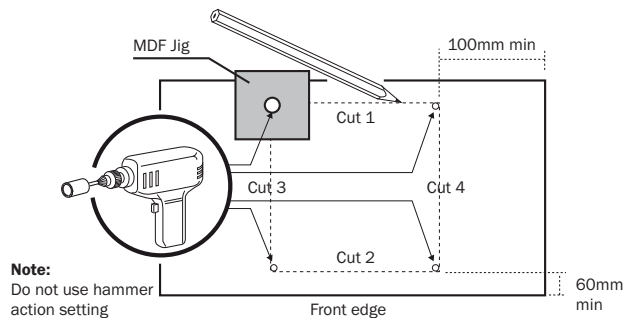
The following tools and equipment are required to complete this operation.

- Plunge Saw
- Sander/Polisher
- Drill
- Hob & Sink Template
- Quartz Plunge Saw Blade
- Vacuum Brazed Drum (20mm)
- 35mm Diamond Holesaw Bit
- Thermal Protection Tape (hob installation)
- Tape Measure & Pencil
- Masking Tape



Note: Cut-outs must be fully supported during the cutting process.

Where the cut marks join on the top, lines can occur. These must be removed using the vacuum brazed drum (20mm). Radius of the holes at corners should never be less than 4mm.

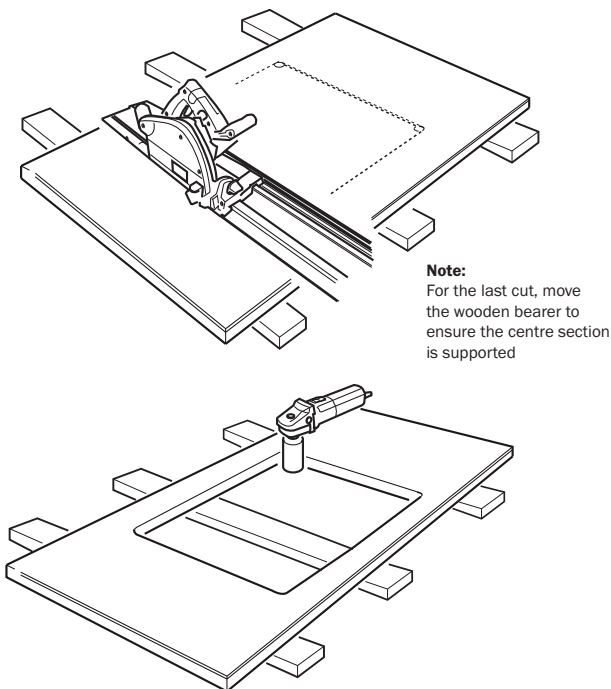


Note: We recommend the use of a drilling template when cutting out the four corner holes in the worktop. Use a piece of MDF and cut the hole to a diameter of 35mm.

Mark out the cutting area for the hob or sink using a tape measure, pencil and masking tape. Use a 35mm diamond holesaw to create a hole in each of the 4 corners through the Quartz worktop.

Note: Make sure there are supporting wooden bearers under the hole positions for the drill to pass through into. Do not apply excess pressure when drilling and slightly rotate the drill.

Use a plunge saw to make the cut in the worktop between the holes, plunging the blade completely through the top then steadily along the cut line.



Important:

- To prevent splintering it is recommended not to push too hard when cutting. This will also preserve the lifespan of the blade
- Always use suitable dust extraction
- Always use a dust mask (FFP3) and safety eye wear whilst cutting
- Use the sander, with a vacuum brazed drum (20mm), to smooth off any internal burred edges or notches. This is very important to ensure there are no unnecessary stress points which could cause cracking.

Note: If fitting an undermount sink, the inside of the cut area will need to be finished as per the cut end of a worktop. Follow the information in section 11 for finishing instructions.

The sink /hob can now be fitted as per a normal worktop application. Do not silicone hobs in place.

Note: The Quartz surface cannot be screwed into. Packers/batons may be required under the worktop for the hob/sink clips to clamp onto. Some brackets may require modification.

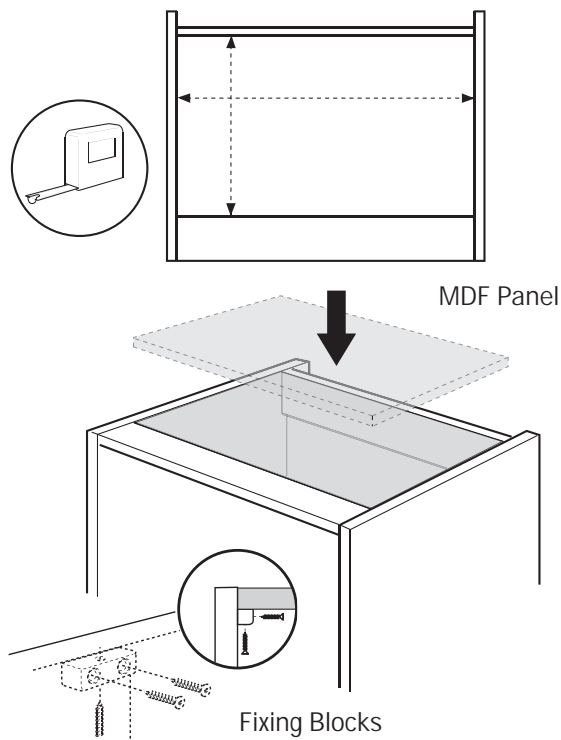
Important: When cutting out for a sink, the front rail of the cabinet will also require cutting. DO NOT remove more of the cabinet front rail than is required for the sink to fit, as the front rail supports the worksurface. Thermal protection tape must be used in all areas in direct contact with heat (i.e hob/sink cut outs).

10. Undermount Sink

The following tools and equipment are required to complete this operation.

- Jigsaw
- Tape Measure & Pencil
- Router
- Silicone (GAR0112/15/17)
- Thermal Protection Tape (Sink Installation)

Note: The undermount sink will need to be fitted to the cabinet following the information below.



Measure the cabinet area which will house the undermount sink as shown.

Cut a piece of MDF to the appropriate size and secure in place in the cabinet using fixing blocks to secure underneath.

Use the undermount sink template to mark the cut-out in the MDF panel for the bowl.

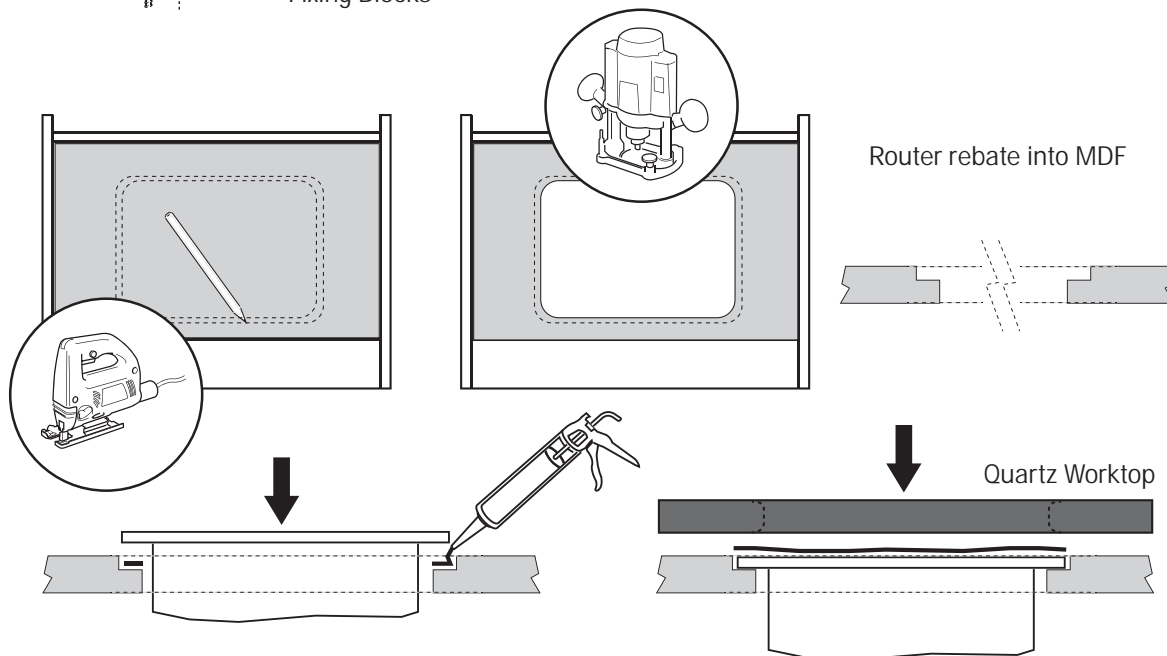
Note: The lip of the undermount sink needs to be recessed into the top of the MDF panel.

Fit the undermount sink to the MDF top and silicone the rim to secure.

Once fitted flush with the MDF panel, apply silicone around the top rim of the sink. The cut Quartz worktop can now be placed onto the units.

Note: For the cutting and finishing of the sink cut-out, follow the information in sections 7 & 9.

Note: Thermal protection tape to be used in all areas in direct contact with heat.



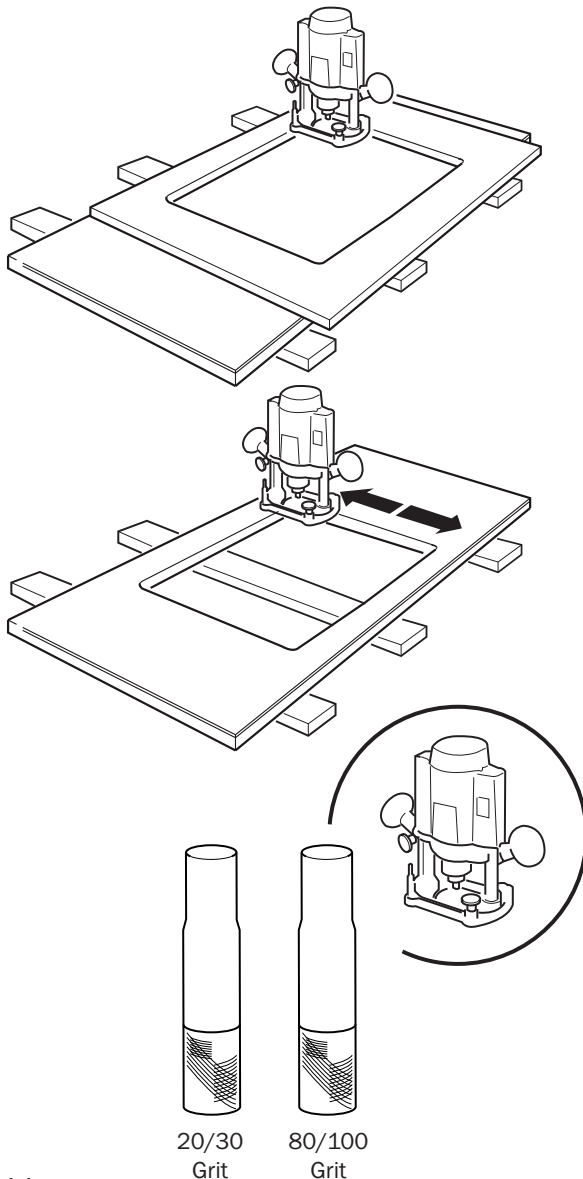
11. Undermount Sink - Cutting/Finishing

The following tools and equipment are required to cut the worktop for an undermount sink and create smooth internal corners.

- Sander/Polisher
- Router
- 12.7 Straight Router Bit 20/30 Grit
- 12.7 Straight Router Bit 80/100 Grit
- Flexible Quick Release Backing Pad
- Stitched Roll Mop
- Abrasive Block (White/Black)
- Silicone Carbide Pads
- Masking Tape
- Pencil
- Thermal Protection Tape



Important: Make sure care is taken with the finished surface of the worktop. Never lay tools onto the worktop during sanding and polishing.



Using the undermount sink template as a guide, cut the worktop section using a router.

Note: When cutting the worktop, cut just inside the pencil line to allow enough material to clean the inside edge. We recommend the use of a jig made from a piece of MDF to ensure the top is cut correctly.

Use the straight router bit 20/30 grit to cut sink shape out with the router. This cut should be made in 4 passes 5mm, 10mm, 15mm & 25mm.

Use the straight router bit 80/100 to remove any burred edges.

Work through sequence of silicone carbide pads in stages applying even pressure.

Final polishing should be carried out using the stitched roll mop and abrasive block.

Note: Mask off to protect the surface as pads will scratch surface finish. Final polish using the stitched roll mop and abrasive block.

Important:

- Always use suitable dust extraction
- Always use a dust mask (FFP3) and safety eye wear whilst cutting
- Clean away any dust particles after each sanding application has taken place
- When using polishing drums, never exceed 2000rpm, as doing so will reduce the life of the drums
- Always use appropriate ear protection

Note: Thermal protection tape to be used in all areas in direct contact with heat.

12. Drainer Grooves

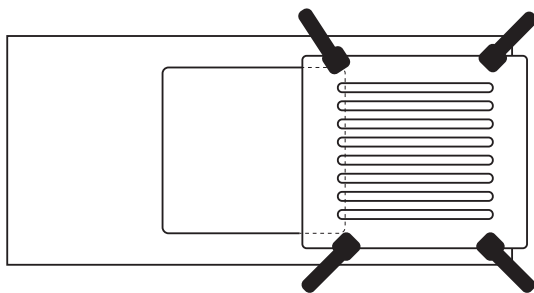
The following tools and equipment are required to complete this operation.

- Drainer Groove Jig
- Router
- Drainer Groove Router Bit
- Electroface Pads
 - 100 grit
 - 200 grit
 - 400 grit
 - 800 grit
 - 1500 grit
- Drainer Groove Sanding Block
- Stitched Roll Mop
- Abrasive Block (White/Black)
- Masking Tape
- Multi Purpose Tape



To create drainer grooves for your undermount sink, follow the information below and the instruction sheet supplied with the jig.

Important: Make sure care is taken with the finished surface of the worktop. Never lay tools onto the worktop during sanding and polishing.



Before applying drainer grooves ensure the sink cut-out is sanded and polished.

Decide on the location of the drainer grooves, i.e equal spacing from the front to back of the sink cut-out, or positioned towards the front, and the required length of the drainer grooves.

Clamp the drainer groove jig to the worktop making sure it is secure. **Important:** Follow the instruction leaflet supplied with the jig for positioning & setting up information.

Note: Check the position of the jig is in exactly the right place before applying the grooves.

Note: Before polishing begins, starting with masking tape, apply 5 strips alternating between masking tape and multi-purpose tape behind the cut drainer grooves to avoid sanding the surface of the worktop.

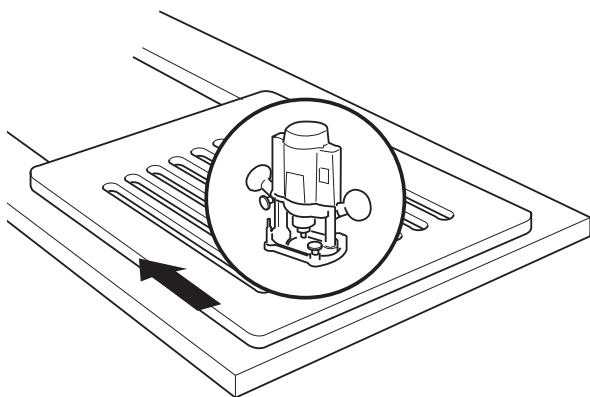
Guide the router down the channels in the jig starting at the end furthest away from the bowl (where groove is shallowest).

Note: We recommend 4 passes to achieve a full cut of each groove.

Spray a small amount of water onto the grooves before sanding.

Wrap the electroface pads around the sanding block, carefully polish the grooves by hand with a small amount of water for best results. Sand for 2 minutes with the 100 grit pad then clean and dry the groove. If there are visible white lines, repeat with the 100 grit and 200 grit until these lines are gone. Now move through the grades of electroface pads until all smaller marks are gone and the groove is smooth. Finish polishing with stitched roll mop and abrasive block.

Note: Each groove should take approximately 20mins to complete. The more time taken the better the result.



Important:

- Always use suitable dust extraction
- Always use a dust mask (FFP3) and safety eye wear whilst cutting
- Clean away any dust particles after each sanding application has taken place
- Always use appropriate ear protection

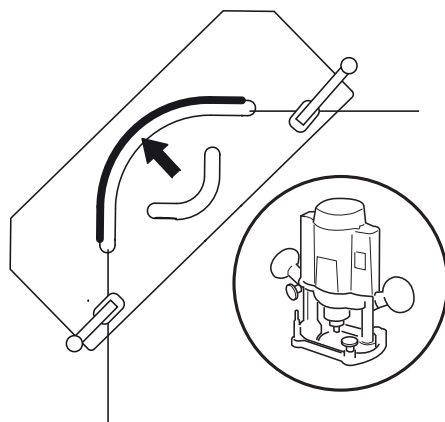
13. Creating Curves

The following tools and equipment are required to complete this operation.

- Router
- Sander/Polisher
- Curved Worktop Jig
- Clamps
- Quick Release Backing Pad
- Masking Tape
- 12.7 Straight Router Bit 20/30 Grit
- 12.7 Straight Router Bit 80/100 Grit
- Stitched Roll Mop
- Abrasive Block (Black/White)
- Silicone Carbide Pads



Important: Make sure care is taken with the finished surface of the worktop. Never lay tools onto the worktop during installation.



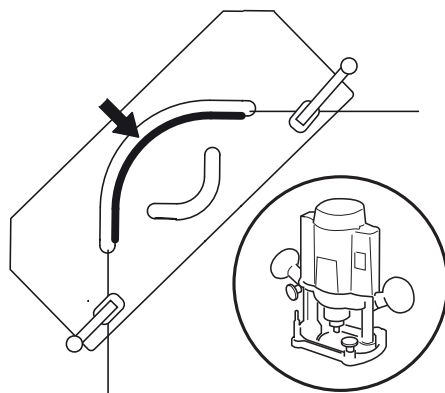
If an off-cut of Quartz is available (from the hob or sink cut out), turn this over and use as your work-surface under the curve being created. A piece of MDF can also be used for this application.

Use the curved worktop jig placing it against the corner of the worktop following the jig instruction leaflet for positioning. Cut the worktop using a router pushing the router towards the front edge of the jig to give a rough cut first, then pulling the router to the back edge of the jig to achieve a smooth cut.

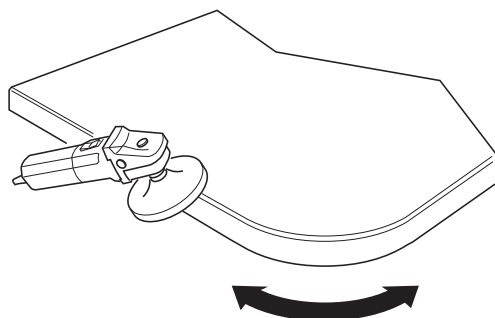
Note: Cutting through the top should be completed with 4 passes 5mm, 10mm, 15mm & 25mm.

Finally, use the silicone carbide pads to finish the edge and apply the chamfer. Follow section 7 'sanding and polishing' for more information.

Important: Ensure effective dust extraction is maintained throughout the cutting and finishing process.



Quartz 'off cut' can be used under the worktop to protect the worksurface



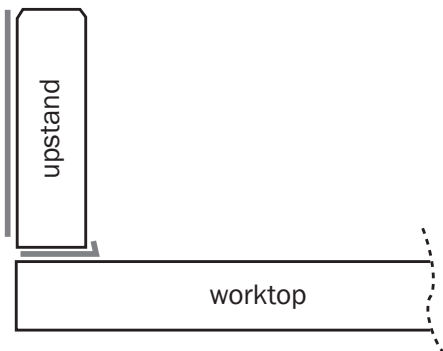
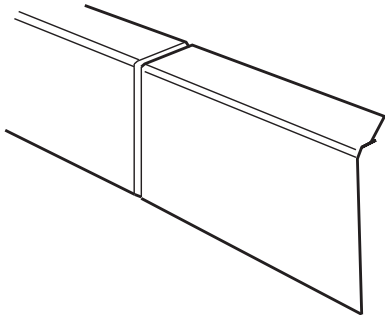
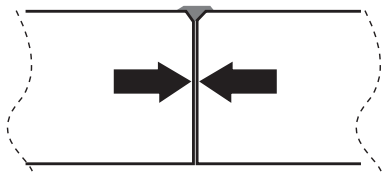
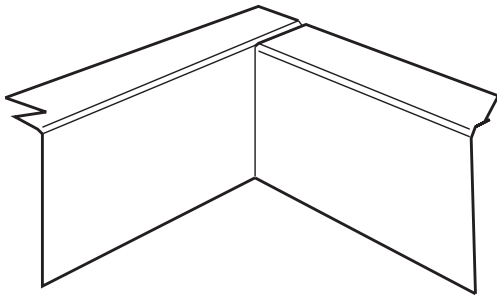
14. Upright Installation

The following tools and equipment are required to complete this operation.

- Plunge Saw
- Sander/Polisher
- Clamps
- Rail/Guide
- Quartz Plunge Saw Blade
- Silicone Carbide Pads
- Combination Square
- Silicone (GAR0112/15/17)
- Tape Measure
- Pencil



Important: Do not leave the adhesive too long before trimming back. Once the adhesive starts to harden the excess should be removed.



NOTE: Dry fit the upstand sections before securing in position.

Use a pencil and tape measure to mark where the upstand needs to be cut.

Use a combination square and straight edge to make the line across the upstand.

Cut the upstand using a plunge saw fitted with a Quartz plunge saw blade. Once this has been completed, use the sander and silicone carbide pads to smooth the edges of the upstand, as previously advised in section 7.

Apply silicone to the rear of the upstand and worktop then fit into place.

Remove any excess sealant before it fully sets.

Important: Under no circumstances should the finished face of the upstand be sanded.

Note: We recommend a 3mm expansion gap is left along with a 50mm gap from any heat source such as hobs.

Important: Ensure effective dust extraction is maintained throughout the cutting and finishing process.

15. Quartz Flooring Installation

The following information details how to install the Howdens Quartz flooring product. Some elements of installation and finishing are the same as the Quartz worktop application. Please refer to these sections as required during installation.

Types of support base

Concrete - (Weak and bad condition). If the flooring level can be raised, a new coatable top layer can be fitted in 24hours. If this is not possible additional support can be used to reinforce the existing concrete.

Concrete - (Good condition). Make sure that both the area and the materials are clean then fit the tile, using the recommended adhesive.

Note: Cement substrates must not be subject to shrinkage after the installation of the tiles.

Ceramic - If the existing ceramic surfaces are bonded well, a new floor covering can be fitted using a primer prior to the application of the cement adhesive. If the ceramic surfaces are not in good condition, they should be removed and made good.

Plaster - A primer should be applied to plaster and very porous supporting surfaces. In the event of using any other supporting material, always consult the adhesive manufacturer's technical specifications.

Wood - Floorboards must be overlaid with backing board, Ply or an alternative product with flexible adhesive. Flooring must be stable with no flexing.

Preparation of the support base

Cleaning

Make sure the support base is a dry, clean and dustless surface. In the same way, products must be clean and dry. Remove any damaged materials and other items which are not part of the base support and our products.

Levelling

If the support base is uneven, the surface should be levelled by applying regulation mortars. To fit Quartz flooring it is recommended that the supporting area does not exceed variations of +/-3 mm. Levelling of the flooring can be carried out with self-levelling mortar.

For vertical parameters, the levelling should be carried out with another type of coatable mortar within two hours, which we recommend for a better finish on bevelled edges. This is to get a more uniform look.

Consistency

The consistency of the support base should be of high quality.

Roughness and porosity

The support base shall be provided with adequate superficial roughness and porosity to help the product adherence. The greater the support base's roughness, the greater adherence there will be between the support base and the stone.

15. Quartz Flooring Installation

Temperature

The levels specified in the product data sheets should be followed. As a general rule, products should not be applied when the temperature of the support base is lower than 5°C unless otherwise stated in the product technical data sheet.

Humidity

Humidity ranges specified in the product technical data sheets should be followed. If necessary, due to residual moisture or because the flooring is positioned directly onto the ground, then a vapour barrier should be applied with a sprinkling of aggregate until saturation is reached.

Depending on the support surface, special precautions will need to be taken. The 'support base' are those elements which the product is placed on. Above them are shown the more common support bases, however we recommend contacting the adhesives provider in order to gain advice depending on the installation.

Cutting the tiles

For detailed cuts around radiator pipes and architrave. Use a jigsaw to carefully cut the tiles making sure the cut is not made too quickly. Cutting too fast may cause a build up of heat in the jigsaw blade whilst cutting.

A plunge saw and plunge saw blade can also be used for cutting the tiles.

How to apply the adhesive

We recommend the use of Howdens flooring adhesive TLS1065 for this application.

Note: A potential problem which can arise during the fitting of the flooring is the saponification (a process that produces soap) of the polyester resin used. Saponification can easily occur when using standard cement adhesives (arising due to the presence of moisture through the evaporation of the water mixed into the mortar and the alkaline pH of the cements). As a general rule for any format, follow the adhesive manufacturers specifications shown on the product.

Prior to beginning large flooring installations, always check the suitability and specification of other adhesives with the provider to ascertain the correct product for the project in the terms of the adhesive's characteristics.

Tile laying

Fitting should be carried out using the double layer method applied with notched trowel. The adhesive should be on the tile (back- buttered) and the support base, exerting gentle pressure and applying lateral movement on the piece to ensure that the adhesive is completely in contact with the tile.

After laying the tiles, they can be adjusted as long as the 'curing time' of the adhesive is not reached. Use tile spacers, to ensure the minimum gap between pieces and remove them before grouting.

Fill in every corner of the joint, making sure that there are no air bubbles or untreated areas. Levellers are useful in case of big floor areas.

Choosing the joint width

Thermal expansion can occur in the flooring. In extreme scenarios of a 20°C increase temperature (on a 2m length for example) tiles can be 3mm larger in size.

15. Quartz Flooring Installation

The performance of the flooring depends on several factors, including the support, the anchoring, adhesive, position and temperature. Giving a specific indication on thermal expansion of the flooring is difficult, as it depends on the final configuration and factors beyond the product specification. It is recommended that joints have a size of 3mm per 60 x 30cm tile.

Tiles should never be laid on the header face without any placement joints between the tiles. On new build floors it is recommended not to lay the pieces until structural movements have settled.

Grouting

Note: We recommend the use of Howdens grout for installation (TLS1066 & TLS1071).

Before grouting, check the joints are not covered by any adhesive. Tiles should have been in place for 24hrs before applying the grouting material. Please ensure the tile spacers are removed from the flooring before grouting takes place.

The application should be carried out using a rubber trowel, applying pressure until the grouting correctly penetrates the joint. Remove excess grout from the surface of the tile with the same trowel. Once drying begins, the grout will start to lose its sheen and the joints should be cleaned and smoothed with a moist sponge before being left to harden.

Excess residue may be present after the initial cleaning so further cleaning with a damp sponge may be necessary. The structural and perimeter joints should always be respected, both in the support and in the covering. The sealing of these joints should be carried out with elastic materials or those with suitable prefabricated structures. It is recommended to leave a perimeter joint of 5mm between the flooring and the vertical structures.

Note: It is recommended to position expansion joints in interior floors, every 30m².

It should be taken into account that the expansion joints of interior flooring coincide with those of the building. These joints should not be covered with any kind of rigid covering. An inspection of the joint should be carried out every five years, checking for the presence of cracks or crevices.

For large flooring areas where the same colour flooring is desired, we recommend using either of the following, silicone in black, white or clear (GAR0112/15/17).

Important: Instructions for use and specific recommendations in the products' technical specifications should be followed at all times.

Other considerations

If fitting underfloor heating, follow the manufacturers guidelines on laying information and suitability.

General information

- Quartz flooring is highly scratch resistant and stain resistant
- Slip resistant value:

Mirrorchip Quartz (WOH8210 & WOH8010)	PSRV WET - 6 PSRV DRY - 45
Matt Quartz (WOH8110 & WOH8310)	PSRV WET - 7 PSRV DRY - 52

16. Care & Maintenance

Important:

- Care should be taken whilst installing to avoid scratches to the surface of the worktop
- Joint adhesive can be re-applied if any pulls away from the joint when removing the excess
- Considerations on the squareness of the room should be taken into account when cutting the worktop, but minor wall undulations should be covered by the upstand
- Wipe worktops using soapy water. For stubborn marks use Howdens Granite & Quartz worktop cleaner (TLS1016)
- No abrasive cleaners should be used - mild detergent only
- The Quartz worktop is scratch resistant but not scratch proof. We recommend the use of a chopping board when cutting. Do not cut directly onto the surface
- Do not leave spills on the worktop. Always wipe away immediately
- Never use bleach on the worktop
- Avoid spilling strong chemical solvents on the worktop such as oven cleaner, paint remover, sink un-blocker or nail varnish as it can damage the surface
- Quartz can be damaged by direct exposure to extreme heat. Avoid placing hot pans and cookware directly onto the Quartz worktop.
- Wax, sprays and sealants should be avoided, as these may reduce gloss levels of product
- Product is not recommended for outdoor use or exposure to UV radiation emission sources
- Do not place excessive weight on unsupported lengths of worktop when fitted/fitting, such as standing on the worktop

Floor Care

- Quartz flooring is to be maintained as per the worktops. **Caution:** Floor will be slippery when wet

Guarantee

- Howdens Quartz has an antibacterial protection guarantee of 15 years and manufacturing defect guarantee of 10 years
Note: Manufacturers defect guarantee of 10 years does not cover misuse or chemical contact of the product
- Where tools and tooling and tooling accessories are displayed on the work surface in the installation DVD, this is for reference purposes only
- Howdens does not recommend placing tools or tooling accessories on the surface of the Quartz during installation

17. Quartz FAQs

What is Quartz?

It is a 20mm thick engineered stone made from resin & natural Quartz crystals

Does it break easily?

Quartz is a product that is very hard in compression is not in any way flexible, and when being moved must be treated as glass. If twisted or bent in any way it will snap, but moving with care should prevent issues. Quartz should be handled carefully as impacts to the slab may result in chipping. Once installed Quartz is a very robust material

Does it scratch?

Yes. Avoid the use of metal utensils directly on the surface. Ceramics or other pieces of Quartz can also cause scratches. It is recommended that a chopping board is always used

Can it be repaired?

No, scratches on Quartz cannot be repaired. Breakages will require a new piece of Quartz

Is it finished with an anti-stain protection?

Howdens Quartz material is non-porous which means it is highly resistant to stains and has an anti-bacterial protection in its formulation

Is there a tolerance in the thickness of the Quartz?

Yes, 1mm (+/-)

How heavy is it?

A 2800mm length is approximately 90kg (packaged) and a 1400mm length is approximately 45kg

What equipment do I need to install Quartz?

A plunge saw fitted with a Quartz plunge saw blade, router and a variable speed polisher or drill (must be able to spin at 2000rpm) plus the consumables we list and use of appropriate extraction

Is it dry or wet cut?

Howdens Quartz can be cut dry using tools available from Howdens depots

What is the maximum overhang tolerance?

200mm

What sinks are compatible?

For the most up to date guidance please speak to your local depot and request a copy of the latest sink and appliance compatibility document

Can Quartz be used as a splashback?

Yes, a section of worktop can be used behind a hob. We recommend a distance of 50mm from heat source

How many kitchens will the diamond blade fit?

Approximately 2-3 kitchens

17. Quartz FAQs

How many kitchens will the holesaw fit?

Approximately 1 per kitchen installation

How many kitchens will the Silicone Carbide polishing pads fit?

Approximately 5-10 kitchens

How many kitchens will the undermount sink tools fit?

Approximately 2-3 kitchens

How many kitchens will the drainer grooves tools fit?

Approximately 2-3 kitchens

What size is the fitting for the diamond blade, does it need a reducer?

The hole in the blade is 22.2mm centre bore. A reducing ring can be used to take this down to 20cm

Is there a reducer supplied with the blade?

Yes, pre-fitted in the blade although it can be easily removed

How long does it take to re-polish an edge?

This process normally takes between 20 and 25 minutes and can be reduced with practice

Can I use an angle grinder to polish?

Yes, the spin should be reduced below 2000rpm or you will burn out the polishing pads

How much longer does it take to fit Quartz compared to laminate?

This will vary. If you fit a laminate worktop using 3 toggle bolts and biscuit joints then Quartz will be quicker, but if you fit laminate using just 2 toggle and no biscuit joints then the Quartz will take slightly longer. Over 2 joins, the Quartz could take up to half an hour longer to fit

How long do I leave the silicone before trimming a joint?

For curing times, please refer to the instructions on the silicone product

What happens if it breaks?

If you experience any quality issues with our products, please contact the depot you purchased the goods from for assistance. Contact details for all our depots can be found on our website

www.howdens.com/aboutus/contact-your-local-depot

Notes

Notes

Notes

